# MARITIME PREPOSITIONING FORCE (FUTURE)

The Maritime Prepositioning Force(Future) – MPF(F) – will be the true enabler of primarily sea-based operations. When the MPF(F) becomes operational, the maritime prepositioning role will expand beyond that of today, which is to provide the equipment to prepare a fly-in force for combat. MPF(F) will serve four functions that the current MPF cannot: 1) at-sea arrival and assembly of units; 2) Amphibious Task Force(ATF) interoperability, the capability to reinforce the assault echelon of an ATF; 3) long-term, sea-based sustainment of the landing force; and 4) at-sea reconstitution and redeployment of the force.

The Naval Services are exploring several new technology areas during the development of the MPF(F). These include selective on-load and off-load, internal ship systems (i.e., automated warehousing, item/pallet/container operations, roll-on/roll-off systems, and flow patterns), external ship systems (i.e., ramps, lighterage, and other craft interfaces), modular system/sub-system concepts, and aircraft interface technologies. Unlike current MPF ships, the MPF ships of the future joint sea base will be able to conduct a selective offload of specific equipment and supplies – along with general-purpose forces – for specific missions. Regardless of whether the mission is a logistics-intensive humanitarian operation or complementary support of a large-scale, ship-to-objective maneuver in a major sea based contingency, selective offload will facilitate the employment of an optimal force package.

Currently, the MPF(F) Program is analyzing alternatives to meet approved requirements. We anticipate that results of this Center for Naval Analyses - led study effort will be officially delivered in early 2004.

The combination of MPF(F) and amphibious warships will form the foundation of a ready, capable, and sustainable force able to support itself from the sea base almost indefinitely. MPF(F) promises to revolutionize Marine Corps and joint-force deployment and employment. The Marine Corps supports ongoing studies to refine requirements that realize this capability.